Flooding Safety pt. 1

Tropical storms, cyclones and tsunamis (giant sea waves) produce heavy rains and can flood coastal communities. Inland, floods can occur in valleys, near rivers and streams, and even in small creeks and dry streambeds. Flooding along rivers can occur seasonally. Rains that come in winter or spring combine with melting snow can quickly fill river basins beyond capacity. In urban areas, land loses its ability to absorb rainfall as fields are converted to roads. When this happens, streets and roadways become swift-moving rivers. It’s important to know what to do before, during, and after a flood.

Safety Tips

Before...

Find out the elevation of your property to determine whether forecasted flood levels are likely to affect your home.

Move the main breaker or fuse box and utility meters above the flood level determined for your neighborhood.

Move appliances and valuables out of basements or flood-prone lower levels. Learn how to shut off electricity, gas and water to your home.

Have a plan

• Develop an evacuation plan. Make sure family members know where to go in the event of a flood. The plan should include how family members will contact one another if separated. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or family friend) who can coordinate family members’ locations and information. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses, and know the emergency plans.

• Prepare a family disaster supplies kit. Families with children should have each child create their own personal pack.